



New River Gorge National River

GMP Conceptual Alternatives – Maps and Comparison Table

July 2006



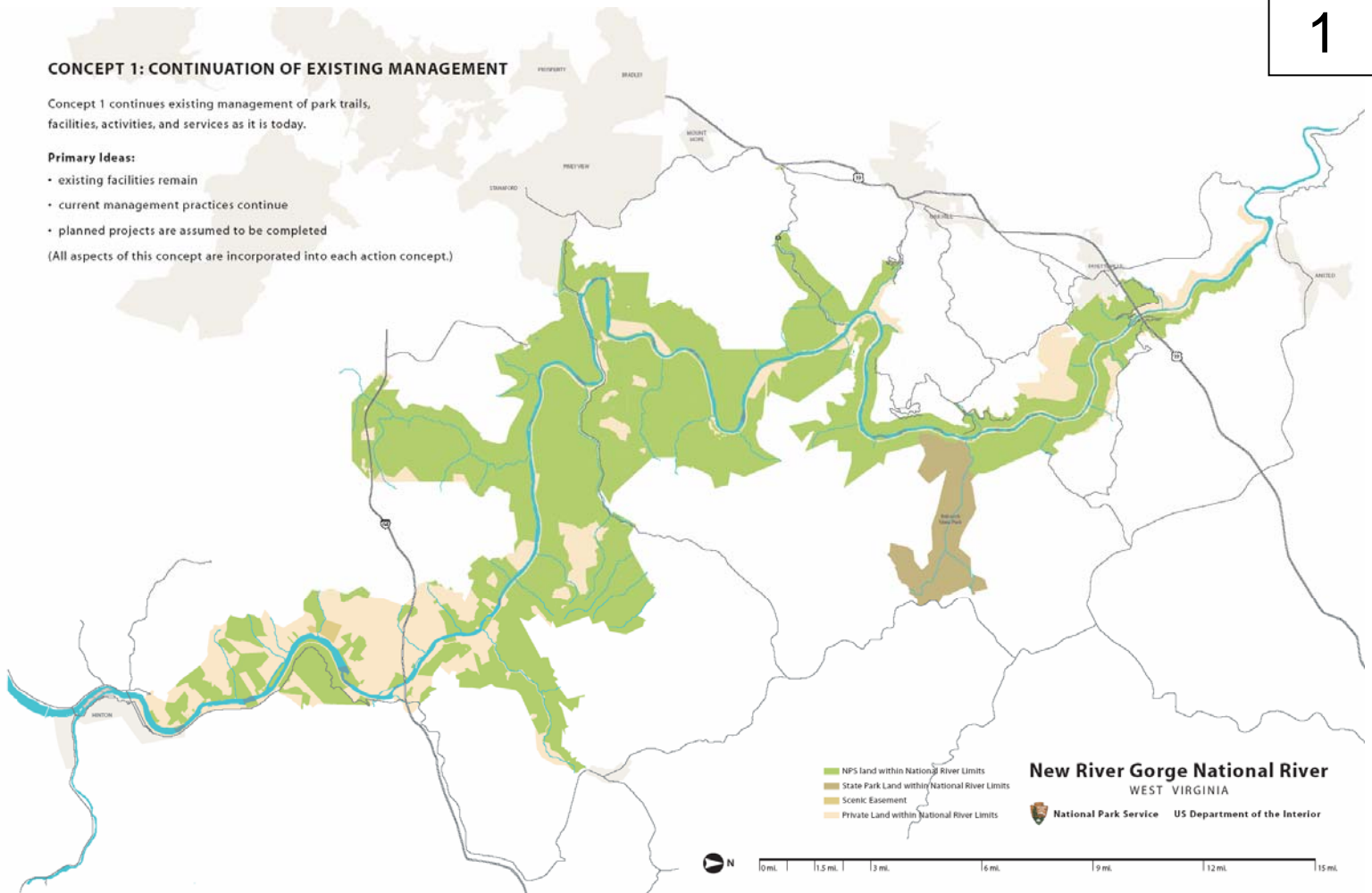
CONCEPT 1: CONTINUATION OF EXISTING MANAGEMENT

Concept 1 continues existing management of park trails, facilities, activities, and services as it is today.

Primary Ideas:

- existing facilities remain
- current management practices continue
- planned projects are assumed to be completed

(All aspects of this concept are incorporated into each action concept.)

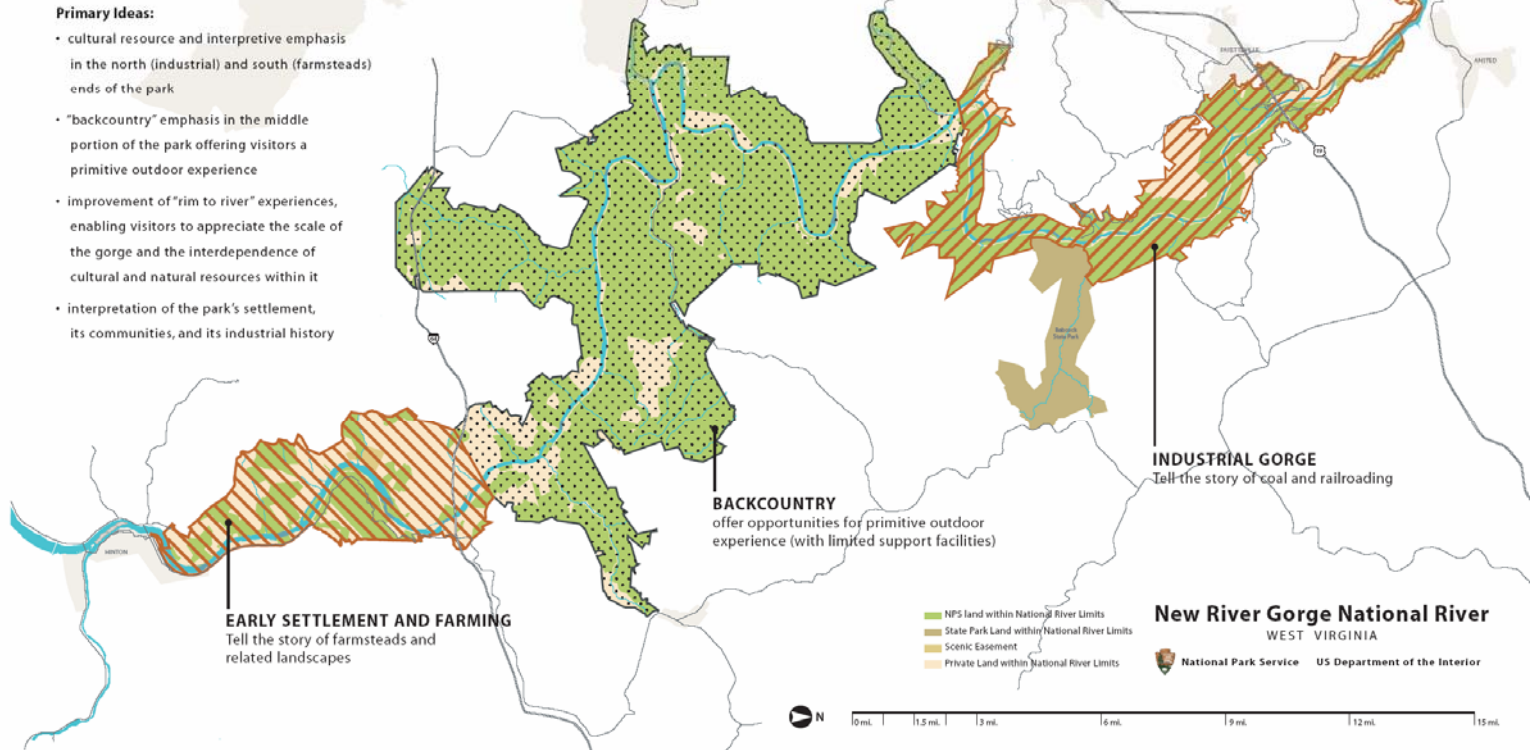


CONCEPT 2: THEMED GORGE SEGMENTS

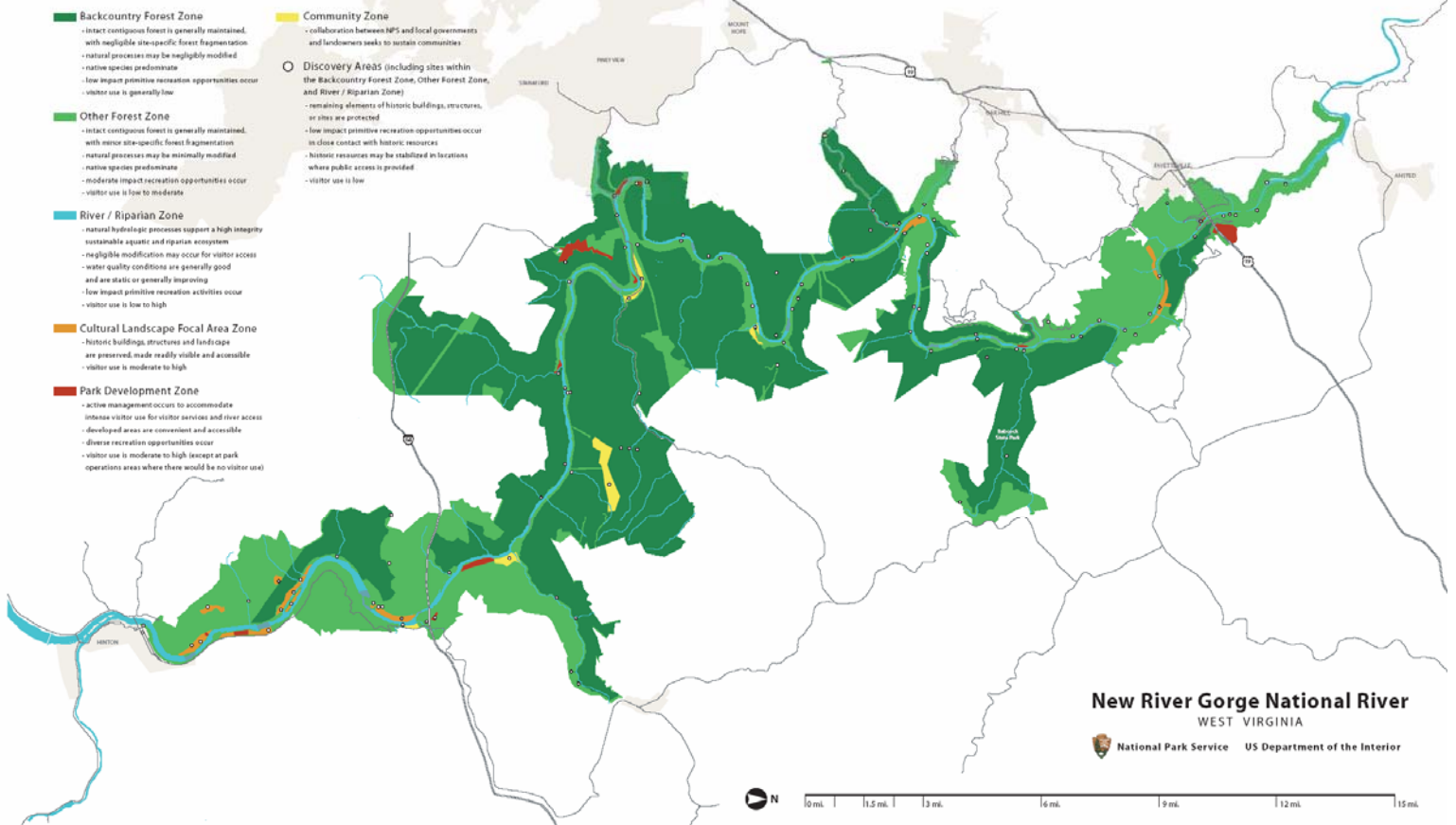
Concept 2 emphasizes substantial differences among sub-areas of the gorge, providing management support for improvements to reflect their differing character, resources, and visitor experiences. Improvements build upon the cultural resources, interpretive potential, and recreational opportunities of the north and south ends of the park, while retaining a "back-country" and more remote feeling within the middle area of the park.

Primary Ideas:

- cultural resource and interpretive emphasis in the north (industrial) and south (farmsteads) ends of the park
- "backcountry" emphasis in the middle portion of the park offering visitors a primitive outdoor experience
- improvement of "rim to river" experiences, enabling visitors to appreciate the scale of the gorge and the interdependence of cultural and natural resources within it
- interpretation of the park's settlement, its communities, and its industrial history



CONCEPT 2: THEMED GORGE SEGMENTS MANAGEMENT ZONES

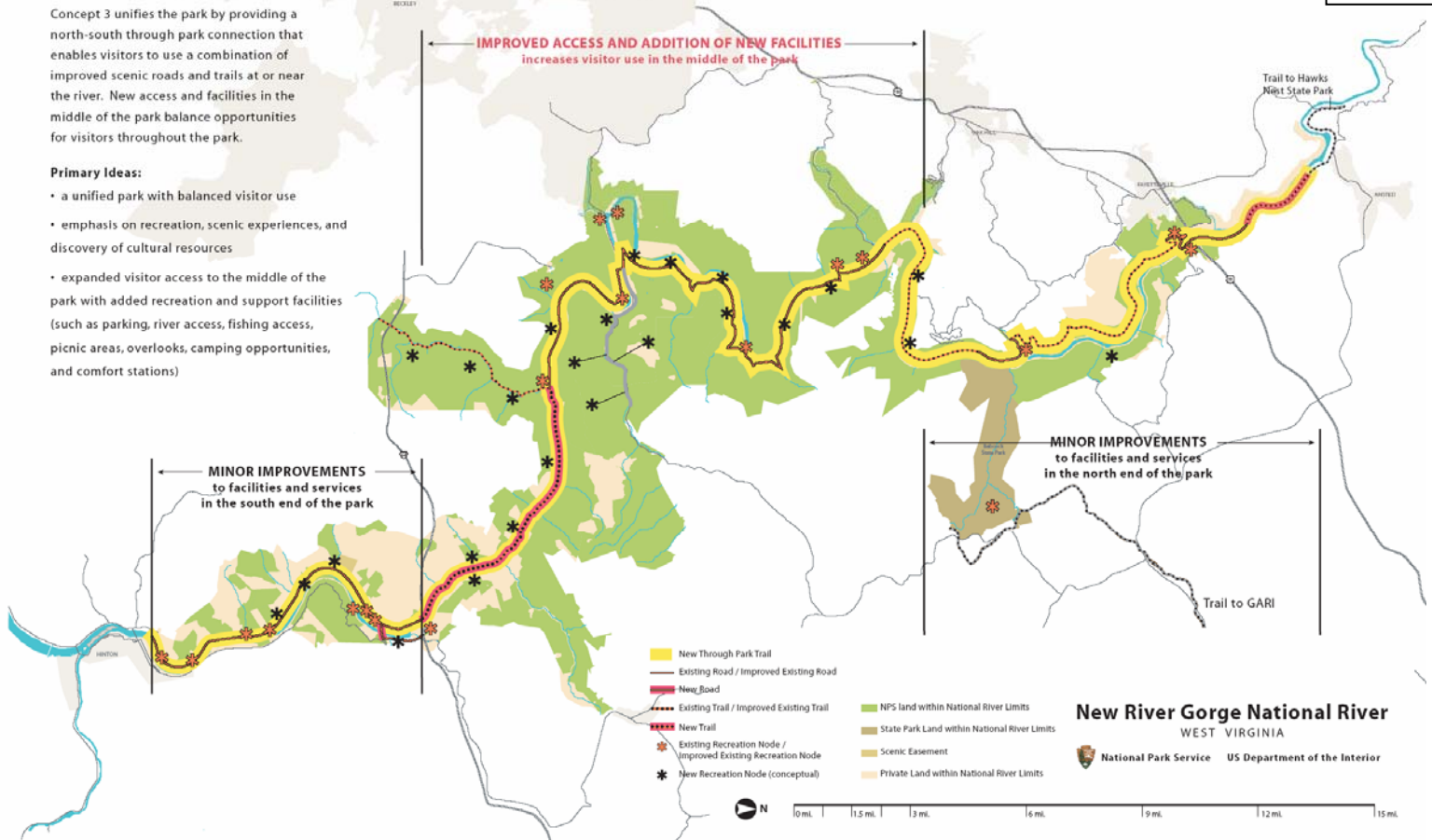


CONCEPT 3: THROUGH PARK CONNECTION

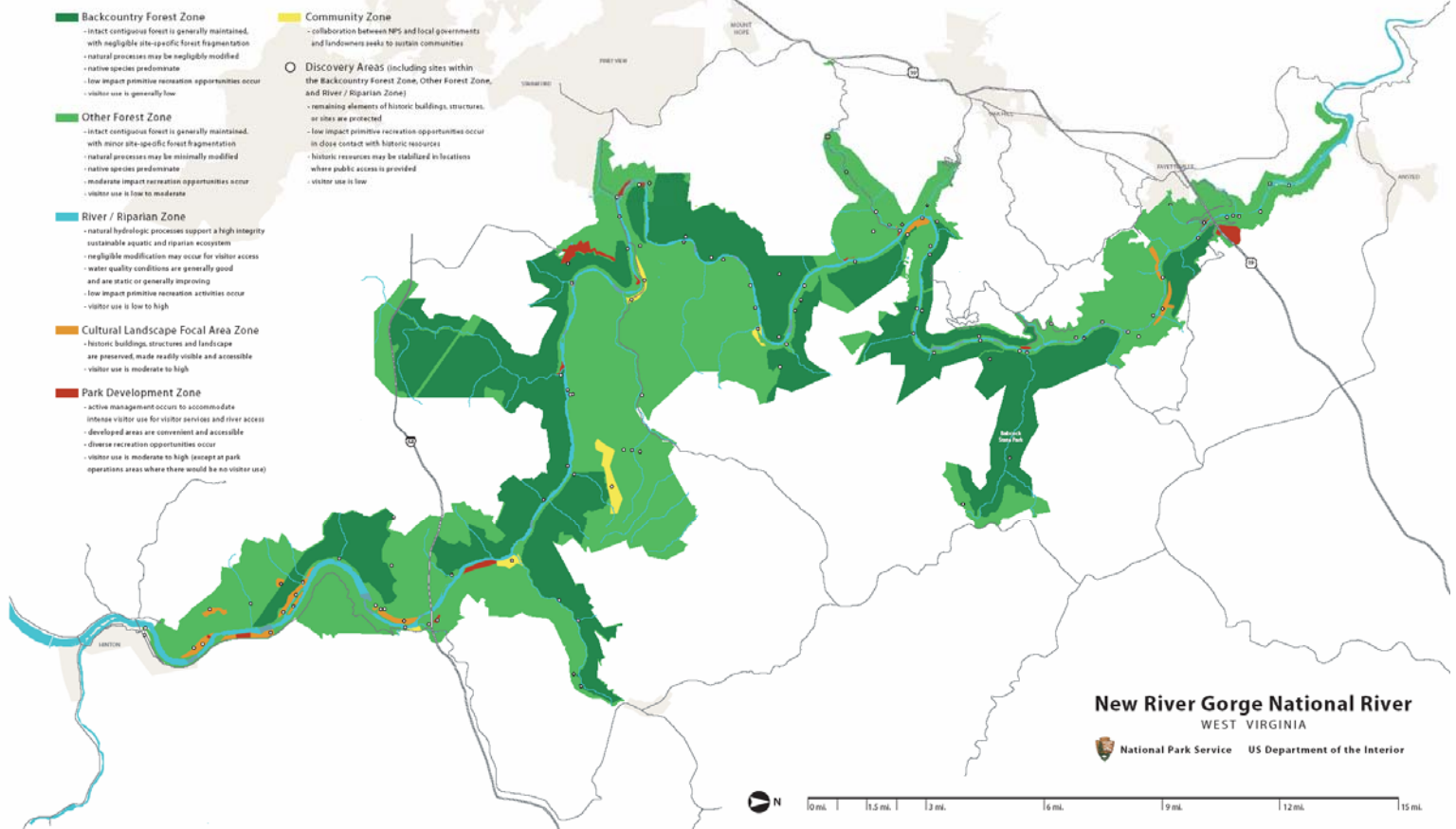
Concept 3 unifies the park by providing a north-south through park connection that enables visitors to use a combination of improved scenic roads and trails at or near the river. New access and facilities in the middle of the park balance opportunities for visitors throughout the park.

Primary Ideas:

- a unified park with balanced visitor use
- emphasis on recreation, scenic experiences, and discovery of cultural resources
- expanded visitor access to the middle of the park with added recreation and support facilities (such as parking, river access, fishing access, picnic areas, overlooks, camping opportunities, and comfort stations)



CONCEPT 3: THROUGH PARK CONNECTION MANAGEMENT ZONES

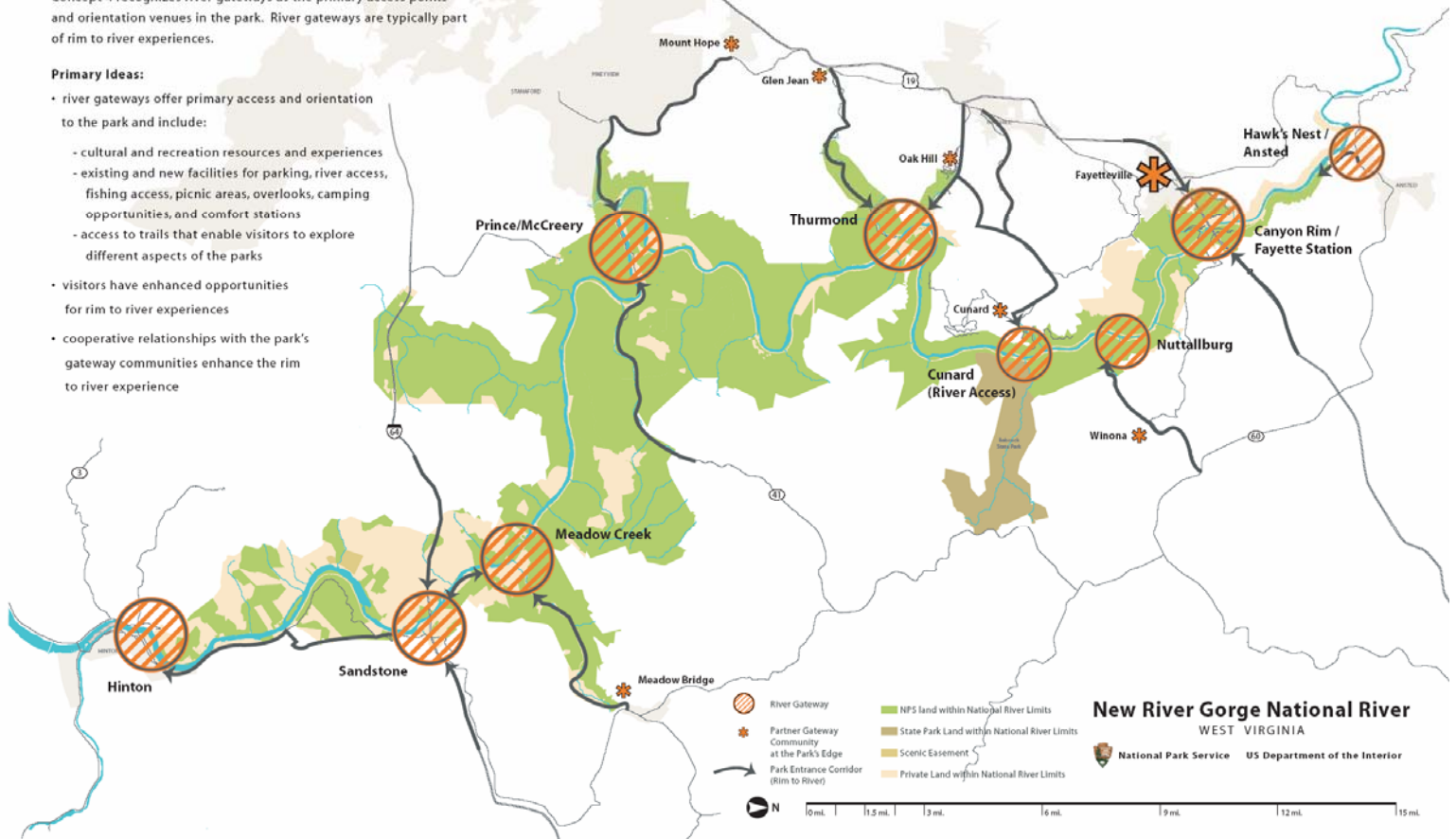


CONCEPT 4: RIVER GATEWAYS AND RIM TO RIVER EXPERIENCES

Concept 4 recognizes river gateways as the primary access points and orientation venues in the park. River gateways are typically part of rim to river experiences.

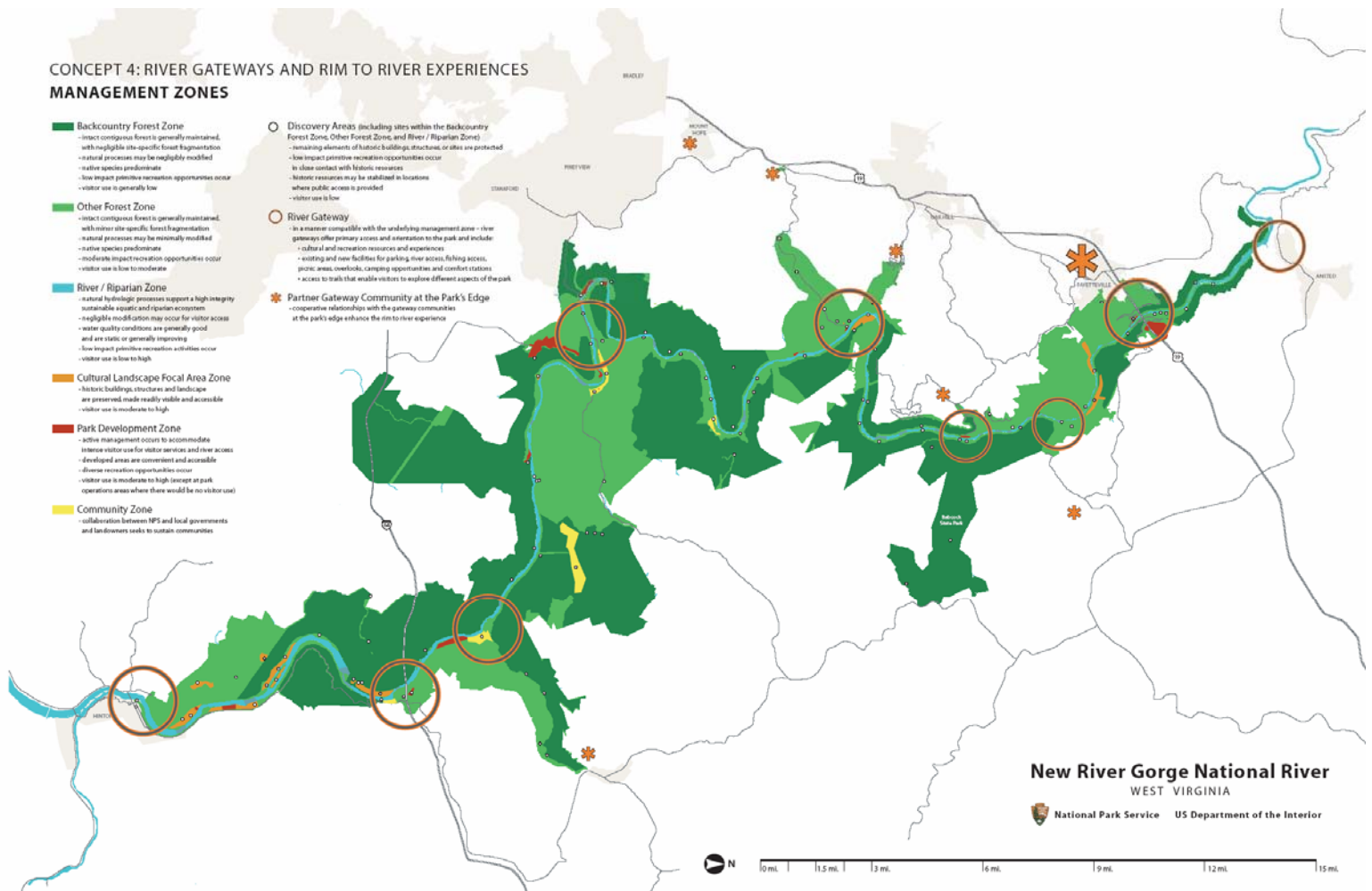
Primary Ideas:

- river gateways offer primary access and orientation to the park and include:
 - cultural and recreation resources and experiences
 - existing and new facilities for parking, river access, fishing access, picnic areas, overlooks, camping opportunities, and comfort stations
 - access to trails that enable visitors to explore different aspects of the parks
- visitors have enhanced opportunities for rim to river experiences
- cooperative relationships with the park's gateway communities enhance the rim to river experience



CONCEPT 4: RIVER GATEWAYS AND RIM TO RIVER EXPERIENCES MANAGEMENT ZONES

- Backcountry Forest Zone**
 - intact contiguous forest is generally maintained, with negligible site-specific forest fragmentation
 - natural processes may be negligibly modified
 - native species predominate
 - low impact permissive recreation opportunities occur
 - visitor use is generally low
- Other Forest Zone**
 - intact contiguous forest is generally maintained, with minor site-specific forest fragmentation
 - natural processes may be minimally modified
 - native species predominate
 - moderate impact recreation opportunities occur
 - visitor use is low to moderate
- River / Riparian Zone**
 - natural hydrologic processes support a high integrity sustainable aquatic and riparian ecosystem
 - negligible modification may occur for visitor access
 - water quality conditions are generally good and are static or generally improving
 - low impact permissive recreation activities occur
 - visitor use is low to high
- Cultural Landscape Focal Area Zone**
 - historic buildings, structures and landscape are preserved, made readily visible and accessible
 - visitor use is moderate to high
- Park Development Zone**
 - active management occurs to accommodate intense visitor use for visitor services and river access
 - developed areas are convenient and accessible
 - diverse recreation opportunities occur
 - visitor use is moderate to high (except at park operations areas where there would be no visitor use)
- Community Zone**
 - collaboration between NPS and local governments and landowners seeks to sustain communities
- Discovery Areas (including sites within the Backcountry Forest Zone, Other Forest Zone, and River / Riparian Zone)**
 - remaining elements of historic buildings, structures, or sites are protected
 - low impact permissive recreation opportunities occur
 - in close contact with historic resources
 - historic resources may be stabilized in locations where public access is provided
 - visitor use is low
- River Gateway**
 - in a manner compatible with the underlying management zone - river gateways offer primary access and orientation to the park and include:
 - cultural and recreation resources and experiences
 - existing and new facilities for parking, river access, fishing access, picnic areas, overlooks, camping opportunities and comfort stations
 - access to trails that enable visitors to explore different aspects of the park
- Partner Gateway Community at the Park's Edge**
 - cooperative relationships with the gateway communities at the park's edge enhance the rim to river experience



New River Gorge National River
WEST VIRGINIA

National Park Service US Department of the Interior

Comparison of Preliminary Alternative Concepts

	Concept 1 Continuation of Existing Management	Concept 2 Themed Gorge Segments	Concept 3 Through Park Connection	Concept 4 River Gateways and Rim to River Experiences
New Idea and Emphasis	none	cultural and interpretive focus in north and south	scenic road and trail connections that connect the park	river gateways and connections to and from them
Way to Unify the Park and Improve Its Image	not much improvement	brand three very different segments	emphasis on through route and river	improved services and identity at gateways
Visitor Experience	varied quality	reflects theme of each segment, with very different intensity of use of each	river and trail emphasis	rim to river emphasis
Focus of Visitor Activities	vary	most intense at north and south segments	distributed throughout the length of the park	concentrated at gateways